

GRACE NOTES

DECEMBER 2018



Cookie Walk December 1st

PARISH LIFE EVENTS

Parish Life's annual Cook Off will be held on Saturday, January 19th from 6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

The theme for this much anticipated event will be **Things with Rice**. All are welcome to participate as chefs or tasters.

There will be a sign-up sheet in the Welcome Area beginning December 31st.

ADVENT CANDLES

Advent Candles will be available to buy on Sunday, December 2nd. Candles will be \$5 per set of 4 and are 10" dripless candles.



GREENING OF CHURCH



December 9th following the 10:30 a.m. service - garlands, wreaths, window candles

December 23rd following the 10:30 a.m. service - poinsettias, creche, pew candles

SAVE THE DATES

Monday, January 7th - All Annual Reports due in the office

Sunday, January 20th - Annual Meeting following a 9 a.m. Holy Eucharist service



Last May's royal wedding made a media star of our Presiding Bishop of the Episcopal Church, Michael B. Curry. On that occasion Bishop Michael preached on the redemptive power of love, and St. George's Chapel, Windsor Castle, and the wedding listeners – those present and the millions watching -- will never be the same.

That same theme of love having the power to change the world—and ourselves, is the Episcopal Church's new church-wide movement *The Way of Love; Practices for Jesus-Centered Life*. Our Episcopal tradition offers a path to those who are committed to living a life after the example of Jesus; a life of unconditional, unselfish, sacrificial and redemptive love. For centuries religious communities have shaped their lives around a common pattern called a "Rule of Life". *The Way of Love* gives us all a framework to shape that Rule for ourselves and our community. A Rule is not intended to be burdensome, but rather to give us a framework, and a means to hold ourselves accountable to a practice.

At our diocesan convention each parish received a "starter kit" of *The Way of Love* materials. There are wallet cards and brochures and an Advent Calendar available, and we at Grace can print more. Videos and additional materials and resources are available online at www.episcopalchurch.org/wayoflove

Advent begins December 2nd and is a time of refocusing in preparation to greet the King of Kings in his birth at Bethlehem and at his return at the end of time. What better time is there to reflect, discern and commit to practicing a Jesus-centered life? Join the movement!

Turn – Learn – Pray – Worship – Bless – Go – Rest.

Also available this Advent is a live online Bible Study with Bishop DeDe Duncan-Probe. Thursdays, Dec. 6, 13 & 20 at noon, the bishop and a guest will reflect on the upcoming Sunday's reading from Luke's Gospel, and respond to your questions and comments. Learn how to join in at www.cnyepiscopal.org/advent-study



Cathy+

LITURGY NOTES - ADVENT AND CHRISTMASTIDE

As we have done for the past few years, we will be scaling back somewhat during the season of Advent. Both Advent and Lent are seasons of preparation for the major celebrations of Christmas and Easter, and some contrast in our liturgy between the season of preparation and the event itself is appropriate. Advent decoration will be largely greens, then give way to the abundant floral and evergreen decorations appropriate to welcome the Christ Child. At the 10:30 gospel procession our gradual will be two verses of the well-known hymn #56 "O come, o come Emmanuel". This hymn is based on the great "O antiphons" which have been used in Advent since the 8th century. Originally they were the antiphons, or refrains that preceded the *Magnificat* at Vespers (Evening prayer). Each is addressed to Christ, under one of his scriptural titles. At the presentation of alms we will use verse 1 of hymn #65, "Prepare thy way O Zion". During Communion we will sing the Advent refrain, "Christ be our Light" which has been used here in previous years.



Due to shifting attendance patterns over the last few years, our **Christmas Eve services have been realigned to 4 p.m. and 8 p.m.** (in addition to a 9 a.m. said service on Christmas Day). This is done to accommodate those who don't stay out late at night, such as children and elders, at an earlier service, while maintaining a traditional night-time service for those who desire it. At this time the choir intends to sing at the 8 p.m. service, and we hope to have other musicians, and of course, hymns and organ music at the 4 p.m. service. If you are interested in singing with the choir for Christmas, or playing an instrument, please contact Sue Darrohn at 315-635-9578, email at sue.darrohn@gmail.com or contact the parish office.

The Sunday after Christmas we will celebrate at 9 a.m. with Lessons & Carols for Christmas, and a brief celebration of Holy Eucharist. Come sing the favorites you missed on Christmas Eve! To allow more time for the carols, there is no sermon on this day.

ONGOING BOTTLE AND CAN DRIVE

Grace has two accounts for bottle returns. The Baldwinsville Bottle & Can Return in the Tops Plaza; and McBride's Bottle & Cans in the plaza behind the church. Please ask for donations to go on the Grace Episcopal account. Don't forget to get a receipts and turn it in to the office. A check will be sent to the church for all returns about once a month. You may also bring your bottles and cans to the church.

THE 13TH ANNUAL COOKIE WALK – SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1

It's here, it's here!!! One of our biggest fundraisers for the parish!

We need LOTS of cookies and volunteers to make it successful, so please keep baking and come help with the event if you are able!



When Can Cookies Be Dropped Off?

Thursday, November 29, between 5:30 p.m. and 8 p.m.

Friday, November 30, between 9 a.m. and 6 p.m.

There will be a drop off sheet in the kitchen – please be sure to add your name and cookies to the sheet.

What Other Help Is Needed?

While we have a great group of people who have signed up to help out, we can use more people!

Thursday Night, November 29, 6 – 8 p.m.:

Set up undercroft, decorate, or assemble boxes

Friday, November 30, 9 a.m. – 6 p.m. (come whenever and stay as long as you wish):

Assemble cookie trays (you can snack on any broken ones



Saturday, December 1, 9:30 a.m. – 1 p.m. – The BIG DAY!!:

If you haven't already signed up for a specific area, we'll find something fun for you to do!

Many hands make light(er) work! Please become part of our festive, "fun-raising" day! Thank you in advance for helping to make this a successful event for Grace Church!

MEN'S BAKE NIGHT





CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES — MONDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

- ~ 4:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with music
- ~ 8:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist with choir

CHRISTMAS DAY SERVICE — TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

- ~ 9:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist for the Nativity of our Lord

Festive LESSONS & CAROLS - SUNDAY, DECEMBER 30TH

- ~ 9:00 a.m. with Holy Eucharist



CHRISTMAS POINSETTIAS may be given in celebration, thanksgiving, as a blessing, or in loving memory for a loved one. Please have your requests in the office no later than Wednesday, December 19th. Poinsettias may be returned to you or given to shut-ins. Request forms can be found in the Welcome Area or on our website. Plants are \$10.00.

THANKSGIVING AT GRACE





FAMILY BOARD GAME COLLECTION

The Outreach Ministry is collecting family games for the Baldwinsville Christmas Bureau. These are very popular Christmas gifts for the needy. Any games are accepted, but we especially need those that are appropriate for families with older children and adults.

Join us in helping the Christmas Bureau spread joy this holiday season! Please bring your donations of games to church by December 10. Thank you!

STEWARDSHIP PLEDGES

Do you live differently than you might because of Grace Church? Would you like others to do the same? Then, please, remember to return your pledge card to the office or place it in the offering plate at one of the Sunday services.

Thank you

NINE-FIFTEEN FORUM

9:15 a.m. Sundays and Tuesdays at 1 p.m. following the noon Holy Eucharist through December 18. Join us for The Challenge of Paul Theme 3 “Paul and Justice”.

FLOWERS AND DECORATIONS

We need to raise the cost of sponsoring the Sunday altar flowers and decorations to \$40 per week beginning in January. If you wish to be a sponsor and this increase is a hardship please speak with the rector.



NOVEMBER VESTRY POINTS



- Reviewed current financial statements.
- Discussed progress of the Stewardship Campaign
- Reviewed and discussed the preliminary budget for 2019; adjustments will be ongoing throughout 2018 as mailed in pledges are received.
- Approved and signed off on the Diocesan assessment payable in 2019.
- Reviewed and approved the elevator maintenance and inspection contract for 2019.
- Sunday altar flowers as well as Easter and Christmas flower costs were reviewed. It was agreed that a small increase in the suggested donation was necessary to cover costs.
- Nominating Committee Update: We are still looking someone to fill a one year vestry vacancy as well as a clerk for 2019.

GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

CLERGY

Rector — The Reverend Cathy Carpenter
Rector@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

STAFF

Office Manager — Margaret Houck
Office@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

Organist — Kristina Vernyi
Music@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org

Sexton — Cathy McClain

WARDENS

Paul Diller, Seniorwarden@GraceEpiscopalBaldwinsville.org
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